

Collins Oyster Co. inc.
1013 Harry St.
Golden Meadow La. 70357

4-12-99

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Dear FDA:

I am writing today to express my strong objection to costly and unnecessary rules which you have been asked to consider by the center for Science in the Public Interest.

AS one Who has worked in the oyster industry for many years and who understands the difficulties faced by farmer, processors and others who rely on shellfish, I can tell you first-hand of the economic damage these proposed rules will inflict upon us.

Most people in our small operations with little financial stability and few cash reserves. Forcing us to comply with mandatory treatment will drive many out of the business altogether and greatly reduce our limited profits even further. Simply stated, we can't afford the costly equipment and cannot absorb the lower consumer demand which will result from treated oysters.

Consumers should have a choice between treated oysters and fresh oysters. The small number of people who may be at risk should heed the ample health warning available where fresh oysters are sold and assume their own level of personal responsibility .I urged FDA to reject there crippling rules and to allow others appropriate independent state and notional bodies such as ISSC. to continue to their educational and oversight activities as they have in the past.

Thank You,

Sincerely ,

Wilbert Collins

Wilbert Collins
President

98P-0504

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Capt. Collins, Sr.
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Golden Meadow, LA 70357



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